

Village of Great Neck Estates

INCORPORATED 1911

Village Hall – Atwater Plaza

4 Gateway Drive

Great Neck, New York 11021

Phone (516) 482-8283

Fax (516) 482-5572

website: vgne.com

MAYOR

DAVID A. FOX

DEPUTY MAYOR

WILLIAM D. WARNER

TRUSTEES

HOWARD S. HERSHENHORN

LANNY OPPENHEIM

JEFFREY FARKAS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY

A. THOMAS LEVIN, ESQ.

CODE OFFICIAL

BARBARA DZIORNEY

ADMINISTRATOR

KATHLEEN L. SANTELLI

September 28, 2015

Dear Fellow Residents,

On the evening of Friday September 25th there was a house fire at 10 Willow Place in our Village. The damage was so extensive that it resulted in the house being completely destroyed and having to be demolished. There are many expressions of gratitude that must be expressed and many lessons that are to be learned.

Throughout the evening the exemplary efforts of the Vigilant Fire Company, Alert Fire Department, Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department and Port Washington Fire Department were extraordinary. We could not be prouder of the efforts that these volunteers put forward to contain a situation that could have been much worse. While this house was lost, no others were seriously damaged and no life was lost. Chief Forst, of Vigilant and the men and women of all Departments were phenomenal. The entire peninsula should, collectively, be thankful that there are individuals who are dedicated to protecting their neighbors. If you have the opportunity to do so, a thank you goes a long way.

The Town of North Hempstead, under the direction of Supervisor Judi Bosworth was amazing. Judi's direction was "whatever Great Neck Estates needs, get it done". Tom McDonough, the Town Safety Coordinator, together with John Tiernan, Town Highway Superintendent, and Matt Temares, Town Public Safety Officer, arranged for heavy equipment to demolish the unstable dwelling and help in providing a fence company to secure the site. They were there until well after midnight.

In the past I have acknowledged Judi Bosworth for her intelligence, care and concern for every resident and Village in the Town. There is never a time when Judi has not been there for us. I sleep better knowing that we have her at the helm in a time of crisis. Her team did a great job.

While the cause of this fire is being fully investigated, none of us want to experience a disaster of this magnitude. Approved plans are required for most projects. Incremental inspections enable our Building Department to insure that construction is performed in accordance with those approved plans and, the NY State Building Code. It is imperative that you obtain the proper permits before any work commences as there are severe fines for the commencement of work without them. The lesson learned is that it may be your home or, your neighbor's home that directly affects yours, next. Please be mindful of the tragedy that could befall any of us if we try to cut corners. Property can be replaced but lives are too precious to endanger.

Respectfully,

David A. Fox
Mayor

